

Minutes of Meeting
Health Services Council
Project Review Committee-II

DATE: 14 September 2006

TIME: 2:30 PM

LOCATION: Health Policy Forum

ATTENDANCE:

Committee II: Present: Victoria Almeida, Esq., (Vice Chair), Maria R. Gil, Robert J. Quigley, DC, (Chair), Larry Ross, Reverend David Shire (Secretary)

Not Present: Rosemary Booth Gallogly, Wallace Gernt

Excused Absence: Raymond C. Coia, Esq., Sen. Catherine E. Graziano, RN, Ph.D., Denise Panichas

Staff: Valentina D. Adamova, Michael K. Dexter, Joseph G. Miller, Esq.

Public: (Attached)

1. Call to Order, Approval of Minutes, Conflict of Interest Forms and

Time Extension for the Minutes Availability

The meeting was called to order at 2:35 PM. The Chairman noted that conflict of interest forms are available to any member who may have a conflict. The Chairman requested a motion for the extension of time for the availability of minutes pursuant to the Open Meetings Act. A motion was made, seconded and passed by five in favor and none opposed (5-0) that the availability of the minutes for this meeting be extended beyond the time frame provided for under the Open Meetings Act. Those members voting in favor were: Almeida, Gil, Quigley, Ross, Shire.

2. General Order of Business

The first order of business is the application of Neighbors Enterprises, Inc. d/b/a Senior Helpers for initial licensure of a Home Care Provider Agency at 75 Main Street in East Greenwich.

Mr. Neighbors stated that currently the organization provides services such as meal preparation, companionship, laundering, and housekeeping. He is requesting the approval to offer bathing and dressing, continence care, and more personal care to the residents.

To a question regarding a training program, the applicant said that currently there is training in place and the organization is working on

implementing a more structured training program. The applicant said that the organization requires their staff to have a minimum of six months doing in home care for the elderly or having family experience. The applicant does a nationwide criminal background check on each potential employee and requires two references that are not family members. With regards to the proposed administrator, the applicant identified him as a retired physician and reviewed his experience. The applicant is currently trying to apply for Medicaid to make the facility more accessible to patients. Long-term care insurance is accepted depending on the plan.

The Chairman asked the applicant to explain the ad that was placed in the RI monthly magazine regarding the facility being licensed to provide home care services. The applicant stated that the ad was set up in advance and has worked to revised the ads. Ms. Almeida noted that this misunderstanding in the advertisement is extremely troubling and would to the confusion of the elderly population.

The applicant states that they have taken some wrong steps along the way but hope to get their license. The applicant further states they full intentions of following by the rules and regulations.

Staff noted that the review is a 90-day process, which begins when the application is acceptable for review. The applicant applied in February and the application was acceptable for review in the end of May.

Staff noted that once an application is accepted for review, the Health Department puts an ad in the Providence Journal and notifies the applicant over the phone regarding the time frame and requirements. The applicant was accepted for review on May 25 but the ads were in place in May and June.

Staff inquired why the applicant did not take any steps to withdraw or amend the ads until several months after. The applicant stated that didn't realize their mistake. The applicant states that the only on-standing ad is the yellow pages.

The next item on the agenda was the application of Apria Healthcare, Inc. [Apria Healthcare Group, Inc.] for initial licensure of a Home Nursing Care Provider Agency at 70 Catamore Blvd in East Providence.

The applicant introduced themselves and the staff that attended the meeting. The applicant noted that they provide oxygen and medical equipment to patients and home IV care therapy. The applicant is seeking licensure because they have found that there is not adequate staffing, availability or skill level from the licensed home healthcare agencies to provide adequate nursing care to their patients. Medicare insures approximately 30% of Apria's home infusion patients.

The applicant believes that a lot more providers will be willing to work with them once they are licensed. The applicant stated that the nurse would go into the patient's home and teach the patients how to administer their medication and once a week would change the IV dressing. The applicant noted that there are nurses on call 24 hours a day and stated that IV nursing is the only skilled nursing service that they propose to provide.

Discussion ensued regarding the number of hours their out of state Director of Nursing would have to spend on-site. The applicant noted that 99% of the time the problem could be answered and fixed over the phone. All of the on-call nurses have a proximity to the patients of one hour.

The Chairman requested information regarding the chain of command for Rhode Island.

The applicant noted that all of the pharmacies are already accredited by JACHO and that they would seek accreditation if they get licensed as home nursing care provider.

Staff noted that if the applicant has questions regarding policy they should provide those to the Department in writing. It was noted that follow-up questions would be sent to the applicant.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 4:00

PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Valentina D. Adamova